

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 010150

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 010150

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 389 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ANKARA 15 JANUARY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHNES 389

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

EO 11653: GDS

TAGS: MARR EAIR GR TU

SUBJECT: FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS OVER AEGEAN SEA

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A DISCUSSION MONDAY NIGHT THAT
EUR/SE DIRECTOR BILL EAGLETON AND I HAD WITH FORIEIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS (REPORTED SEPTELS), THE LATTER AT ONE
POINT MADE A BRIEF PASSING REFERENCE TO FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS
OVER THE AEGEAN SEA. EAGLETON HAD INDICATED THAT HE WAS
TRAVELLING ON TO ANKARA, AS WELL AS OTHER POSTS IN
CONNECTION WITH HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THIS AREA. BITSIOS
HAD BEEN EXPRESSING VIEWS ABOUT THE OVERALL STATE OF GREEK-
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PAGE 02 STATE 010150

TURKISH RELATIONS (SEPTTEL) AND SAID THAT THE GOG WAS

LOOKING FOR SIGNS THA TURKEY SHARED GREECE'S DESIRE
FOR A NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. BITSIOS
SAID THAT GREECE WAS SEEKING TO FOLLOW A POLICY OF "DETENTE"
WITH TURKEY, BUT THE TURKS WERE EVINCING VERY LITTLE INTEREST.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, BITSIOS SAID, GREECE THOUGHT IT WAS TIME-
INDEED, FAR PAST TIME -- TO LIFT THE FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS
OVER THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THE GERMANS WERE "ON HIS BAK"
ALL THE TIME TO TRY TO FIND SOME KIHD OF SOLUTION. ICAO
HAD SOME TIME AGO SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE WHICH GREECE FOUND
ACCEPTABLE AND GREECE WAS READY TO COOPERATE WITH TURKEY IN
LIFTING THE RESTRICTIONS. HOWEVER THE TURKS SEEMED
UNWILLING TO BUDGE. BITSIOS ASKED EAGLETON WHETHER HE
WOULD BE INTERESTED OR PREPARED TO RAISE THIS MATTER
WHEN HE SAW TURKISH OFFICIALS IN ANKARA.

3. EAGLETON INDICATED HIS FAMILIARITY WITH THE PROBLEM BUT
SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE GERMANS WERE PURSUING THIS MATTER
IN ANKARA. HE WAS NOT SURE IT WOULD BE EITHER APPROPRIATE
OR WHETHER HE WOULD HAVE A SUITABLE OCCASION TO
DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO
ANKARA. HOWEVER, EAGLETON INDICATED HE WOULD TAKE NOT OF
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SUGGESTION AND LET HIM
KNOW IF ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT TRANSPIRED WHILE EAGLETON
WAS IN ANKARA.

4. COMMENT: THIS SEEMED MORE LIKE A SUPR-OF-THE-MOMENT
THOUGHT OF BITSIOS RATHER THAN ACAREFULLY CALCULATED PRO-
POSAL THAT THE US BECOME MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WE DID NOT DWELL
ON THIS SUBJECT MORE THAN A MOMENT OR TWO AND BITSIOS
SEEMED TO BE POINTING TO IT AS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE
UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TURKS.

5. EAGLETON HAS TRAVELLED ON TO ANKARA TODAY AND HAS NOT
SEEN THIS MESSAGE. IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIS
ATTENTION IN ANKARA.
KUBISCH UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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